

# Heritage Preschool Parent Corner

# W



W says "w" for wa - gon

## Letter of the Week

"W" is the 23rd letter of the alphabet! Almost to the end. W words include week, watermelon and wonderful.

## Words & Feelings

Feeling words for "W": wanted, wound-up, warm, worried, wimpy, weepy, whiny, wishy-washy, wooden, weary, wonderful, withdrawn, weird

## Riddles, Rhymes & Opposites

1. The opposite of cold
2. Machine that cleans clothes
3. The season after fall
4. Person who serves people at tables in a restaurant
5. There are 7 days in a
6. The opposite of dry

## Alliteration

William wished his wagon wouldn't wobble.

## Fun with W

- Practice winking or waving
- Waddle like a duck or wiggle like a worm
- Look for white objects
- Have a Wild West Day and wear western-style clothes
- Weave yarn
- Talk about the weather. Is it wet, windy or warm?
- Talk in a whisper
- Pretend to wash walls and windows
- Make wishes



Even the **wind** and **waves** obey Jesus!"

Mark 4:41

## Poetry

**W** is for worm and a wagon to pull

**W** is for wig, whale, wave, and wool

**W** is for watermelon, juicy and sweet

**W** is for walnuts, waffles, wheat

Hooray for **W**, big and small

the wildest, wackiest letter of all!

## **It's Time to Write! 3 Tricks to Help Kids Learn to Hold a Pencil or Crayon Correctly**

Pencil grip is one of those things that is really hard to re-teach if kids initially learn it incorrectly.

Though every child will end up settling on a pencil grip that works best for him or her, introducing the standard "tripod" grasp (pinching with thumb and index finger while resting on middle finger) is a good place to start. However, this can seem virtually impossible when you're dealing with five- and six-year-olds who don't even know their left from right, let alone how to divide up their fingers into different positions.

### **Trick #1: Use shorter pencils.**

A shorter pencil (*like a golf pencil*) means less space for cramming in unnecessary fingers. It basically forces kids to pinch with thumb and index finger. It's also why occupational therapists often have kids use crayons that have been broken in half if they are having trouble using an age-appropriate grasp.

### **Trick #2: Teach them the "pinch and flip".**

If shorter pencils don't do the trick for your little writer, then teach them the "pinch and flip". Simply have them pinch the sharpened end of the pencil and then flip it around until it gently



rests in the "webspace" (that soft skin between your thumb and index finger) in the ready position. (*YouTube has a video you can watch - look for the link in the online article*)

### **Trick #3: Have them hide something under their last two fingers.**

If shorter pencils and the "pinch and flip" don't work, then try having students hide something under their pinky and ring fingers. These two fingers are supposed to bend toward the palm while the thumb, index, and middle fingers do all the work. However, sometimes kids have a hard time with this because they can't yet "separate" the two sides of their hand (the pinky side and the thumb side). This trick will take care of that. It really doesn't matter what they hide under their last two fingers, as long as they can comfortably do so without their fingers bulging out from their hand because the item is too big, or having to squeeze too tightly because it's too small. Try using a small ball of playdough, cotton ball, marble, bead, crumpled piece of tissue paper, or tiny rubbery toy.

*Excerpted from: <http://mamaot.com/2012/07/19/3-tricks-to-help-kids-learn-to-hold-their-pencil-correctly/>*